

## HOME AND SOCIETY.

## CHAT OF THE SEASON.

THE STYLES OF 1830-MILLE. MAJOR'S WEDDING—  
SOME PRETTY EVENING DRESSES—  
FASHIONABLE SHOES—A FEW FEMININE  
PORTRAITS.

The city shops are already filled with abundance of English holly and mistletoe, and other greens of the Christmaside. A great deal of the decorative greens of the market are brought from the south, where such evergreens grow in abundance. A certain variety of mistletoe also grows at the south, which is more luxuriant than the genuine English plant. It lacks the halo of romance, however, that hangs around the genuine mistletoe, which is always brought from England or Normandy. The greenest English soil may be found in our markets. The mistletoe is difficult to use and is of little practical service in making wreaths and other pieces. The running cedar is one of the loveliest of our Christmas greens, and may be found wild in many parts of our woods. It is especially suitable for ropework to wind around picture frames and for wreaths and garlands.

For the Christmas table, a low basket filled with holly and mistletoe, the handle trimmed with sprays of the plant, has a very pretty effect. The appearance of such a basket is greatly enhanced if it is filled, even though a very small portion of the basket shows if it is properly filled and trimmed. Such a basket looks very pretty also if it is filled with fine ferns and gorgeous red poinsettia leaves in the centre.

The period immediately preceding Christmas is pre-eminently the season for dinner-partying. Not only the dinner-table, but the entire house is put in the hands of the artist for decoration when a large dinner-party is given. Decorations of holly and mistletoe are no longer confined to Christmas Day, but have been used liberally since the Advent Season. At a large dinner-party recently given, where the house was lighted by electric lamps, the chandeliers were massed in holly leaves with their bright berries, and the balustrades of the stairs were wound with holly. Branches of mistletoe were also hung on the chandeliers. Where gas is used the best is so much greater that decorations must be sparingly used in the vicinity of the light.

As a decoration for the dinner-table are now kept as low as possible. There is always, of course, a centerpiece on the circular table, which is preferred where the size of the dining-room will allow its use; and from this centerpiece the cloth is sprayed with ferns or the flowers. It is the object of the hostess that her table shall be decorated in as individual as well as elegant a manner as possible. Hence the ingenuity of the artistic hostess is taxed to its utmost to devise new, startling and beautiful decorations for all other flowers.

Roses, orange, carnations, ferns, lilies, and a variety of mignonette, giant mignonette, lilies of the valley, dark Parma violets, and even simple scotch heather are used by the hostess. Yellow, which in some shades turns white under the sunlight, is not now thought to be as effective for table decoration as other colors. Hence it has been in a measure superseded by pink and red. Where the table is round there are many beautiful ways in which the flowers may be used.

At a recent dinner-party the centre of the round table was massed with mignonette fern and pale pink roses, and the decoration continued in a curved spray, graduated to a single blossom. In the vacant place left at one side by this decoration a large bowl of pale satin ribbon in the color of the roses was placed, trimmed with dark Parma violets.

At another dinner, which was followed by a theatre party, the favors for ladies were garlands of pink roses mixed with pinks and ferns. These were tied with narrow pink ribbons and arranged on the dinner cloth to overlap each other and form the links of a chain of flowers. After the dinner party each lady wore her garland on her arm. Some beautiful table sets have been simply dressed with green carnations, lilies of the valley and giant mignonette. The candelabra used at all dinner-parties this season have been of the low silver shape. Nothing harmonizes so perfectly with the floral surroundings as silver. Candelabra of Dresden china and fine porcelain have proved practically failures for dinner use, though ornamental enough for breakfast.

One of the newest Parisian favors for luncheon is a little water sail, its contents stimulating water by a mirrored cover, at one side of which there is a space for flowers. This space is filled by a large bunch of the dark Parma violets so much sought for this season, so that the little sail appears to be filled with flowers, though the mirrored cover really conceals a supply of choice bonbons.

At a dinner recently given at Tuxedo the table decorations and favors were all of Scottish heather. One of the most costly of all decorations was of green and white. The centre of the table was massed with lilies of the valley, fern, one of the rarest of exotics, and the cloth sprayed with branches of the same delicate green. The Auriculae are dainty little trees which will be used on the centre of the Christmas table and are often used at dinner parties, with palms and other growing plants for the decoration of the room. They are an exotic relative of the pine tree. A fashionable family dinner party which will be given Christmas day will have one of these miniature trees in the centre of the table, kept as low as possible, and massed around with holly and fern. The table will be sprayed with that variety of red poinsettia which grows in continuous sprays. Where the decorator has an oblong table to arrange he must exercise more ingenuity. The long table with floral centre, flanked by candelabra on either side, is not seen as often as it was formerly. The decorator uses various means to break up this set effect. Often he dispenses with the centre altogether, and dresses the table diagonally from one corner to the other with a band of flowers and ferns, and uses four candelabra placed at equal distances apart. On such a table the ornamental centerpiece of embroidered serves somewhat to break up the length. It is usually of some rare bit of embroidery laid over color, and this color gives the keynote for the color of the floral decorations.

Parma violets are very much used on dinner tables for favors in a color scheme with pink roses, and in other ways. Their odor is so delicate and refined that it does not mix unpleasantly with the odor of the vands. The introduction of Roman hyacinths and any other bloom with a strong odor should by all means be avoided.

The greatest latitude is allowed to individual taste just now in matters of dress, and fair dames may be long-waisted or short-waisted, may wear sleek shirts of gathered skirts, or "individual" waists, or the veritable poke bonnets of the great grandmothers, all as their fancy dictates. "Everything is really chaotic yet," said a social arbiter the other day. "One may wear whatever suits her best just now, but we must all make up our minds to full skirts gathered at the waist eventually. They will be so heavy and cumbersome that we will finally have to adopt crinolines to support them; and what a pity it is to be sure. Just as we have evolved the highest and most graceful of silhouettes we must make the voluminous petticoats and heavy gathered powns forced upon us again."

Although there is no fixed law as yet as to what shall or shall not be worn, it seems to be the tendency to relegate the Empire style to evening gowns. This style is by no means an exact copy as its name would denote, and it seems, moreover, to cover several styles for the time being. The dresses are made with scanty skirts, attached to a waist that comes just below the armpits, and which is trimmed with a drape of silk velvet or crepe, while other so-called Empire styles have closely fitting, long-waisted underdresses of satin or silk, with a gauze or lace overskirt which alone is gathered just below the arms. This latter clever adaptation of the short-waisted style is really a compromise, as it keeps the entire shape of the figure through the diaphanous material.

"I think Mr. A.—is so clever and original," said a young hostess to a literary man, who was dining with her the other day. "Do not you?" "Well, he is a good fellow enough, but I should hardly call him that," was the answer. "But he really says such good things," she insisted. "For instance, yesterday afternoon at Mrs. B's he made such a clever remark about tea; I forget what it was, but it was something about the cup cheering one up."

"Hardly the cup which cheers but not inebriates," suggested her neighbor, grinning. "Why," she exclaimed, innocently. "That was just what it was, were you there?"

It seems to be an unwritten law nowadays that there should be at least six cushions to each sofa, and as many more as the accommodation warrants. The usual arrangement is to have three or four or even five piled up at each end with several head rests or smaller pillows lying on the edge of the back between. Imagine a group of three, beautiful specimens in themselves and in the most harmonious of colors. The upper one is made of a light green predominates, and is edged with a light green silk ruffle. The dark one is of an exquisite shade of violet plush with a crest in one corner embroiled in gold, the back and front

pieces being laced together with gold cord. The third is made from a charming piece of old yellow damask with bouquets of flowers in their natural colors; old gold gullions constitutes the border, and silk pompons finish each corner.

## AN "1830" WEDDING.

## A FRENCH BRIDE ADOPTS THE STYLE OF SIXTY YEARS AGO.

Brides have but little opportunity of displaying original taste in their choice of a wedding gown. The conventional white silk, velvet, or satin and orange blossoms, surrounded by a tulle or lace veil, are not to be departed from, and it is only in make and in that indefinable something known as "style"



that one can hope to differ from another. Mile. Jeanne Malot, daughter of Hector Malot, the well-known French novelist, was married recently, and wore on the occasion a really graceful gown of a modification of the 1830 fashion. The white satin bodice and trained skirt were made in one; the former, trimmed with a deep flange of silk moulin, had tallon sleeves and was gathered in at the waist in graceful folds. Richness and simplicity were the tone of the toilette. The veil of old lace was arranged "en aureole," or halo fashion, on the top of the head, and the skirt was finished off with three fluffy pleatings of silk moulin.

Time, Malot was gowned in shaded abnthe velvet with a little falling of the same at the hem of the skirt. On her bodice a flower of coral lace was held in position by bands of white ribbon forming coquettish knots on the shoulders. The six little



bridesmaids were charmingly dressed, the older three wearing pale blue velvet frocks with puffed sleeves, large pale-blue hats covered with pale-blue feathers, and bronze silk stockings with blue kid slippers, while the younger three were arrayed in ivory ribbed-velvet blouses, and huge bonnets made of



cream-colored antique lace finished off by a gigantic butterfly-bow of broad oldrose satin.

Another well-thought-out gown was that worn by the bride's most intimate friend, and which was of myrtle-green velvet covered with steel pastilles and embrodered on the left side from the throat to the edge of the skirt with a design of palm leaves in steel and crystal. The bonnet was of the "flat order" in myrtle-green velvet with scattered "donkey ears" of pink velvet standing up in front and fastened by a couple of diamond arrows.

"Yes, I shall have my new gown made with very wide skirts and gathered at the top," said a pretty woman decidedly at the end of an argument on the subject. "I know it will be becoming, but there is no doubt at all that it is the coming fashion, and it always gives me a sort of courage to know that I am wearing the correct thing. That seems a very little pang of the correct thing when entering a room full of people, and it is worth all the picturesque and becoming efforts in the world."

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